

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18412

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT VISIT TO US: CSCE

1. FROM TALKS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND SENIOR FRG FONOFF OFFICIALS IN PAST FEW DAYS, WE HAVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT CSCE WILL ASSUME A LARGER ROLE IN THE WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS THAN MIGHT NORMALLY BE EXPECTED. FRG CSCE DELEGATION CHIEF, BLECH, WILL REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANY THE GERMAN DELEGATION AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRESS HARD FOR US SUPPORT FOR FRG POSITIONS ON CERTAIN KEY POINTS (GENEVA'S 6962 PRESENTS THESE POINTS FULLY).

2. THE GERMANS ARE CLEARLY BECOMING NERVOUS ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE BEGINNING TO REGARD AS LACK OF ALLIED SUPPORT FOR GERMAN POSITIONS IN GENEVA. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY FEEL THAT THE FRG ALONE IS NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM THE USSR ON THE PEACEFUL CHANGE LANGUAGE: THEY WILL WANT US AND OTHER ALLIES TO HELP OUT. THE SAME WILL BE TRUE IN OTHER AREAS OF PRE-DOMINANTLY GERMAN CONCERN. THE GERMANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TALKED RECENTLY ARE REFLECTING INCREASING SENSITIVITY ABOUT THEIR BEING ISOLATED ON POINTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THEM IN GENEVA. THEY APPARENTLY FEAR

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LAR INTEREST TO THEM IN GENEVA. THEY APPARENTLY FEAR

THAT GERMAN INTERESTS MAY BE SWEEPED ASIDE AT THE LAST MOMENT AS MOMENTUM PICKS UP FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO STAGE II OF THE CONFERENCE.

3. THIS IS WHERE THE US COMES IN, AT LEAST IN THE FRG EYES. THEY WILL WANT US TO STAND BY THEM IN THE DIFFICULT DAYS THEY EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN GENEVA, BOTH IN THE TUG-AND-HAUL WITH THE EAST AND WITH THE OTHER WESTERN ALLIES, SOME OF WHOM SEEM TO BE TIRING OF THE FRG ROLE IN THE CONFERENCE.

4. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE FROM HERE ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE FUTURE CSCE STAGE II NEGOTIATIONS. WE SIMPLY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GERMANS TO MANY OF THE HARD POINTS THAT REMAIN TO BE CLEARED UP IN GENEVA. THESE ARE NOT ISSUES WHICH ARE BEING PUSHED ONLY BY FRG BUREAUCRATS; THEY INVOLVE THE VERY SUBSTANCE OF GERMAN THINKING ON REUNIFICATION AND ON GERMANY'S POSITION IN EUROPE. THUS, THEY ARE THE SUBJECT OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL ATTENTION.

5. SCHMIDT CAN EXPECT HEATED DEBATE IN THE BUNDESTAG SHOULD THE CSCE PRODUCE DOCUMENTS THAT SEEM TO IGNORE GERMAN INTERESTS. IT IS THE SORT OF DEBATE HE WILL WANT TO AVOID IN THE PERIOD AHEAD, FACING AS HE DOES DIFFICULT ENOUGH PROBLEMS ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT. HE CANNOT APPEAR TO HAVE SUFFERED A FOREIGN POLICY LOSS FOR THE FRG AT A TIME WHEN HE WILL HAVE TO DEFEND THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN OTHER MORE PROBLEMATIC AREAS. CSCE, WHILE IT MIGHT APPEAR FAR REMOVED FROM THE CENTER OF CURRENT CONCERNS IN BONN, IS A POTENTIALLY LOADED POLITICAL TOPIC, AND ONE THAT COULD EMBARRASS SCHMIDT IF NOT DEALT WITH PROPERLY.

6. IN SUM, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE GEARING UP FOR A STRUGGLE ON CSCE AND, WILLY-NILLY, WE MAY FIND OURSELVES INVOLVED.  
CASH

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